

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5065

S E C R E T CAIRO 6780

NODIS CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ

43*: SECTO 06009

1. CLARIFICATION CONTAINED REFTEL HELPFUL. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED PARA 2A CAIRO'S 6775, MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON HOW ISRAEL CONSTRUES "EASTERN SLOPES". EVEN IF OUT OF PASS SUMMITS, IF ISRAELIS STILL END UP OCCUPYING ALMOST HALF OF THE PASSES, SADAT WILL FIND THE IDEA HARD TO ACCEPT. IF IT IS JUST A FEW KILOMETERS INTO THE EASTERN ENTRANCES, THERE IS A BARE CHANCE HE MIGHT DO SO.

2. THE PROBLEM WITH THE LATTER CONCEPT IS ITS ASSYMETRY. THE EGYPTIANS WANT A DEAL TO AT LEAST LOOK EQUAL. IT WILL NOT LOOK EQUAL IF (A) THE ISRAELIS KEEP A LARGE PART OF THE PASS AREA, (B) HAVE IN EFFECT TWO AMERICAN POSTS IN FRONT OF THEM AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL DETERRENT TO THE EGYPTIANS (C) AND WITH ALL THIS, STILL RETAIN THEIR JEBAL UMM KHUSHAIB INSTALLATION. IF THE EGYPTIAN FORWARD LINE WERE LOCATED AT THE WESTERN END OF THE PASSES, THE SYMMETRY MIGHT MAKE IT MORE SALEABLE. ALTERNATIVELY, PERHAPS THE OLD ISRAELI IDEA COULD BE REVIVED OF TWO EGYPTIAN COMPANY SIZE POSTS LOCATED AT THE WESTERN ENTRANCES. OURS COULD PRESUMABLY BE

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A KILOMETER OR SO BEHIND THEM SO THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR

TO BE A DIRECT ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP. THIS MIGHT SWEETEN IT A BIT. ALL OF THE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED CAIRO'S 6775 STILL APPLY.

3. SADAT VERY MUCH WANTS AN AGREEMENT, BUT IT HAS GOT TO BE SOMETHING WHICH HE CAN SHOW TO HIS PEOPLE WITH SOME SENSE OF PRIDE. HE WAS WIDELY CRITICIZED BY MANY FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HE IS AWARE OF THIS, WHICH INHIBITS WHAT HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN A SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, IF THE PRICE FOR THE LATEST ISRAELI IDEA IS ALSO FULL US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT AS THEY REQUEST AND AN INABILITY ON OUR PART TO DO ANYTHING FOR TWO YEARS OR MORE, IT WILL MAKE IT EVEN WORSE. SADAT WILL BE DEEPLY DISILLUSIONED WITH OUR ABILITY OR, AS HE IS MORE LIKELY TO VIEW IT, OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE A FAIR SETTLEMENT.

4. ON BALANCE, I STILL THINK THERE IS AT MOST A 50-50 CHANCE THAT HE WILL ACCEPT IT, AND WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE REJECTS IT. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS SOME PROGRESS, HE MAY MAKE A NEW COUNTERPROPOSAL.
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